

The bill, along with a detailed section-by-section explanation of the bill, can be found on the Law Revision Counsel internet site at <http://uscode.house.gov/cod/t54>. Interested parties are invited to submit comments, no later than August 31, 2011, to Ken Paretzky, Senior Counsel, or Tim Trushel, Senior Counsel, Office of the Law Revision Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2-308 Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, (202) 226-9061. Mr. Paretzky's telephone number is (202) 226-9061 and his email address is [Ken.Paretzky@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ken.Paretzky@mail.house.gov). Mr. Trushel's telephone number is (202) 226-9058 and his email address is [Tim.Trushel@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tim.Trushel@mail.house.gov).

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE EVACUEES TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2011

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 1, 2011*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Evacuees Tax Relief Act of 2011, legislation providing tax relief to those forced to abandon their homes because of a natural disaster. This legislation provides a tax credit or a tax deduction, depending on the wishes of the taxpayer, of up to \$5,000 for costs incurred because of a government-ordered mandatory or voluntary evacuation. Evacuees could use the credit to cover travel and lodging expenses associated with the evacuation, lost wages, property damages not otherwise compensated, and any other evacuation-related expenses. The tax credit is refundable up to the amount of income and payroll taxes a person would otherwise pay, thus ensuring working people who pay more in payroll than in income taxes are able to benefit from this tax relief. The credit is available retroactive to December of 2010, so it is available to those who were evacuated because of this spring's wildfires, tornadoes, and floods.

Having lived in the Gulf Coast of Texas for almost 50 years, I have firsthand experience with the burdens faced by those forced to uproot themselves and their families because of a natural disaster. Evacuees incur great costs in getting to safety, as well as loss from the storm damage. It can take many months, and even years, to fully recover from the devastation of a natural disaster. Given the unpredictable nature of natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornados, it is difficult for most families to adequately budget for these costs. The Evacuees Tax Relief Act helps Americans manage the fiscal costs of a natural disaster.

Mr. Speaker, with the 2011 hurricane season now upon us, it is hard to think of a more timely and more compassionate tax relief proposal than one aimed at helping families cope with the costs associated with being uprooted from their homes, jobs, and communities by a natural disaster. I hope all my colleagues will show compassion for those forced to flee their homes by cosponsoring the Evacuees Tax Relief Act.

#### JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 1, 2011*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, this May, I am honored to join my friends in the Jewish community in celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month, and to recognize the many contributions Jewish Americans have made to our country.

Jewish immigrants came to our country inspired by the promise of cultural and religious tolerance and socioeconomic mobility. For more than 350 years, Jewish Americans have enriched American society by placing a strong value on education, community and culture.

They have also contributed to the economic vitality of our Nation, particularly California's 15th Congressional District, through their innovations in technology. Thanks to their entrepreneurial spirit, Jewish Americans have become the leaders in renewable energy development and high technology in my district. Without question, Silicon Valley would not be the hub of innovation it is today without the contributions of Jewish Americans.

The Jewish American community in my district serves as a shining example of what makes Silicon Valley a global leader. I am privileged to represent a community of Jewish Americans whose contributions in the fields of technology, business, and education, among many others, have served as a testament to America's promise as a land of opportunity.

#### URGING CITIZENS TO ENSURE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 1, 2011*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, the 2011 hurricane season begins today.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I regularly meet with emergency managers to ensure they are ready to respond to a hurricane or other disaster.

Citizens must do their part as well. Make sure you have an emergency kit and develop an emergency plan. Be aware of evacuation routes in your area. Resources are available at [bilirakis.house.gov](http://bilirakis.house.gov) to help you with these efforts.

Disasters can strike at any time, often with little warning. Our hearts and support go out to the victims of disasters our Nation has faced as they work to recover.

Mr. Speaker, we must work to create a culture of preparedness. Taking these small steps now can make a huge difference when disaster strikes.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 1, 2011*

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, on May 26th, I missed rollcall vote numbered 376 be-

cause I was travelling to Kansas for a family funeral.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes."

#### CORNELIA HEERSINK TRIBUTE

### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 1, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cornelia Heersink for her dedication to the American Red Cross and the people of Colorado's San Luis Valley.

As an original member of the Red Cross Gray Ladies, Mrs. Heersink volunteered for 45 years at the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center. The devotion she showed to helping the people of her community is truly admirable. Her continual presence provided comfort to patients and families at the southern Colorado hospital. Patients, and members of the surrounding community, always appreciated the years of service she gave to the area's health.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand and pay tribute to Cornelia Heersink today. She has given a lifetime of service to the health and rehabilitation of Colorado. I have no doubt that her impact will be felt for many years.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICHIE CRISAFULLI

### HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 1, 2011*

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to an act of heroism.

In Glendive, Montana, just about as far east as the state stretches, a young woman is alive today, just as all the hopes and dreams for her future still are, because a firefighter by the name of Richie Crisafulli risked his life to save hers.

Richie Crisafulli is the Assistant Fire Chief for the West Glendive Fire Department, but he is more than a firefighter. He is a father, a husband, an EMT, a coach, and a community leader.

In the early morning hours of March 25th, a fire broke out in the home of a Glendive family. Smoke alarms went off and three of the four family members home at the time made it outside. But a teen girl lay sleeping in a basement bedroom.

Assistant Chief Crisafulli, who lived a few blocks away from the fire, heard the call come in, and though he had no rescue gear, responded immediately.

When Crisafulli arrived the family directed him to the room where the young woman was still inside. Richie attempted to enter the house, but the smoke from a fire in the laundry room was overwhelming without the proper equipment and he was forced to retreat.

Undeterred, and inspired by an idea from another one of Montana's finest, Dawson County Sheriff Deputy Ross Canen, who had just arrived at the scene, Crisafulli took Canen's stocking cap, filled it with snow, covered his mouth and nose with it and headed back inside. The make-shift respirator worked.